

March 17, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) today issued the following statement with regards to his support for H.Con.Res. 28, the Afghanistan War Powers Resolution. This bill, which directs the president to remove armed forces from Afghanistan by the end of this year, was considered by the House of Representatives today, March 17, 2011. The text of Rep. McNerney's statement is below.

"Our country's military involvement in Afghanistan is deeply personal for me and a policy to which I've devoted a great deal of thought and consideration. My son Michael joined the Air Force shortly after 9/11 because he wanted to do his part to keep us safe from terrorism, and he continues to serve as member of the Air Force Reserve.

"As I've said many times before, we must reevaluate our policies with regards to the war in Afghanistan on a frequent basis. I traveled to the region in 2009 and met firsthand with military commanders and service members on the ground and I've continued to closely monitor the situation. Our troops have answered the call of duty above and beyond any expectations we could have set, and I am grateful for their heroism and sacrifice.

"Our country has now been at war for almost a decade, and it is our responsibility to ensure that there is a well-defined plan to bring this mission to a close. At a time of grave economic challenges here at home, we're spending billions each year on the war while corruption within the Afghan government continues to flourish. Committing resources to an endless war is not in the best interest of our country's security or economic stability.

“Vigilantly guarding against future terrorist attacks is a critical priority, and I am committed to keeping our country safe. After much consideration, I have come to the determination that we can best achieve this goal by ending large-scale military operations in Afghanistan, which will allow us to more effectively concentrate our resources on protecting our national security and fighting terrorism.

“It is after much careful consideration and for these reasons that I supported today’s bill to bring the conflict in Afghanistan to a close.”